

News release

Hurricane Wilma weakens but flood fears remain

20 October 2005

Hurricane Wilma has decreased in strength but remains an extremely dangerous Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Maximum winds speeds are 150 m.p.h. and hurricane force winds now extend some 70 miles from the storm centre.



Satellite image of Hurricane Wilma

Wilma is forecast to re-strengthen over the next 24 hours and become slow moving over the north-eastern tip of the Yucatan peninsula. As much as 20 to 25 inches (500 to 600 mm) of rain could fall in the worst-affected areas over the next 48 hours. Storm surges along affected coasts could be as high as two metres above normal tide levels.

Latest bulletins from the National Hurricane Center predict that Wilma will then turn north-eastwards towards southern Florida, crossing into the Atlantic Ocean early next week. At such a popular time for holidays, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office web site gives advice on the situation for tourists or for people who have friends and family in the area.

For the latest satellite imagery from the area and information on the movement of the storm check the [Met Office tropical cyclone information page](#), which includes a link to the National Hurricane Center and major national weather services around the world.

[Latest tropical cyclone advisories](#)

[Travel advice from Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#)

[Media toolkit about hurricanes](#)

[More about tropical cyclones](#)

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